

Abstract of the Disclosure

The invention provides a method and system for providing unique ATM End System Addresses, in which each new device is assigned a unique address in an ATM network while allowing all new devices performing the PNNI protocol in a selected set (such as all those from a single manufacturer) to be assigned by default to the same peer group. In the invention, a first portion of the ATM address (from which the default peer group ID is determined) is by default configured to equal a selected value unique to the manufacturer (or another selected class of devices), which assures that all devices from the same manufacturer (or in that selected class) are by default configured in the same peer group for PNNI protocol purposes, while a second portion of the ATM address (comprising a switch number ID) and a third portion of the ATM address (comprising a device number ID) are by default both configured to equal a unique value for the device (such as a MAC address), which assures that each device is configured with a unique ATM address. The third portion of the ATM address may alternatively be determined using a different method, so long as selection of the third portion causes each device to be assigned a unique ATM address by default.